

**In the Claims:**

1-118. (Previously canceled).

~~119.~~ (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 80% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the~~ amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the~~ amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~

(d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422),~~ lacking its associated signal peptide;

(e) ~~the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~

~~(f)~~(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or

~~(g)~~(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;

wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

2 ~~120.~~ (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~119~~ encoding a polypeptide having at least 85% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the~~ amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the~~ amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~

(d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422),~~ lacking its associated signal peptide;

- (e) ~~the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~  
(f)(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or  
(g)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;  
wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

3 ~~121.~~ (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~119~~ encoding a polypeptide having at least 90% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the~~ amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);  
(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the~~ amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;  
(e) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~  
(d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~  
(e) ~~the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~  
(f)(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or  
(g)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;  
wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

4 ~~122.~~ (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~119~~ encoding a polypeptide having at least 95% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the~~ amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);  
(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the~~ amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;

- ~~(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~
  - ~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
  - ~~(e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~
  - ~~(f)(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or~~
  - ~~(g)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;~~
- wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

123. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~119~~ encoding a polypeptide having at least 99% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

- ~~(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~
  - ~~(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
  - ~~(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~
  - ~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
  - ~~(e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~
  - ~~(f)(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or~~
  - ~~(g)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;~~
- wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

124. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422),~~ lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~
- (d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422),~~ lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (e)(c) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 ~~shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~
- (f)(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 ~~shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~ or
- (g)(e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160.

~~125~~. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~ comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422).~~

~~126~~. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~ comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422),~~ lacking its associated signal peptide.

127-128. Canceled.

~~129~~. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~ comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 ~~shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421).~~

~~130~~. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~ comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 ~~shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421).~~

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~~131.~~ (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~ comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160.

132-134. (Canceled)

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~~135.~~ (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim ~~119~~.

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~~136.~~ (Previously presented) The vector of Claim ~~125~~, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

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~~137.~~ (Currently amended) A An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim ~~125~~.

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~~138.~~ (Previously presented) The host cell of Claim ~~127~~, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.